



Director Jim Walker



Governor Bob Riley

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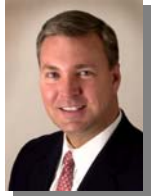
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# Alabama

# DHS QUARTERLY

## *Message from the Director*

Welcome Back! This is the second quarterly update published by your Alabama Department of Homeland Security. I hope that you found our first publication beneficial and informative. Our goal is to make this quarterly a tool that provides you regular updates on projects, deadlines, and other homeland security related items of interest. AL DHS received a lot of positive feedback about our first issue. If you have any additional ideas or suggestions to improve this newsletter, please let us know. Remember, this publication is written to serve you.



Sincerely,

Jim Walker

## **FY06 STATE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT**

In the upcoming months, Alabama DHS will be working with the Joint Homeland Security Task Force and state and local officials to develop a program and spending justification plan for the FY2006 federally administered State Homeland Security Grant Program. Unlike previous years, Alabama will compete with other states and territories for SHSG funding. We will apply for all but a legislatively directed minimum grant award, and then compete with the other states on a risk, threat and vulnerability based formula for the remainder.

AL DHS conducted work sessions in January and during the first of February to establish the program priorities and spending justifications for the state. The Alabama Homeland Security Task Force will meet in mid-February to approve the plan before it is briefed to the Governor, Legislative Oversight Committee, and Congressional delegation. Alabama's application is due to Federal DHS before the March 2, 2006 deadline. We should know the results and grant amounts by June 1, 2006. Stay tuned!

## **GRANT CLOSE OUTS**

The 2003 grant closeout was December 31, 2005. All reimbursement claim forms had to be submitted to the Alabama Department of Homeland Security (AL DHS) by this date. The 2004 grant closeout is March 1, 2006. All reimbursement claim forms must be in to ALDHS by this date. Jurisdictions wishing to be considered for returned FY04 funds must submit a prioritized budget detail worksheet no later than February 15, 2006 for these funds. Worksheets previously submitted for the FY03 program will be considered in the FY04 reallocation program.

If you have any questions pertaining to grant closeout, please contact your AL DHS grant manager.

**AL DHS STAFF REALIGNMENTS**

On October 17th 2005, AL DHS welcomed a new grant manager to the organization. Lori Stamaris will be working with Shirrell Roberts and La'Tonya Stephens on grant management. With Lori's additional assistance in handling grants, the local jurisdictions will be divided as follows:

**ALDHS Regions & Points of Contact****Regions 3, 5, & 6**

Lori Stamaris

Office: 334-956-7265

Cell: 334-850-3067

Radio: 77\*863

Fax: 334-223-1121

E-mail:

lori.stamaris@dhs.alabama.gov

**Regions 4 & 7****AEMA****DPS****Ag & Industries**

La'Tonya Stephens

Office: 334-956-7262

Cell: 888-609-5039

Radio: 77\*868

Fax: 334-223-1121

E-mail:

latonya.stephens@dhs.alabama.gov

**Regions 1 & 2****ACJIC****Conservation****GOFBCI**

Shirrell Roberts

Office: 334-956-7263

Cell: 334-850-2576

Radio: 77\*865

Fax: 334-223-1121

E-mail:

shirrell.roberts@dhs.alabama.gov

**Interoperable Communications**

Art Faulkner

Office: 334-956-7272

Cell: 888-390-0133

Radio: 77\*13

Fax: 334-223-1121

E-mail:

art.faulkner@dhs.alabama.gov



Other changes in responsibilities include the following:

Joe Davis, Assistant Director of Management will be the primary contact for Interoperable Communications, Information Sharing, and the back-up contact for Training and Exercises.

Dennis Wright, Assistant Director of Borders, Ports and Transportation will be responsible for Infrastructure Protection and Immigration, the primary contact for Training and Exercises, and will serve as General Counsel.

Art Faulkner, State Agency Coordinator will serve as the EMA Coordinator, 9-1-1 Coordinator, State Agency Liaison, AL DHS Security Officer, the primary contact for the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries and the Alabama Department of Public Health, and the back-up contact for Interoperable Communications.

### JOINT LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEETING

Director Jim Walker and other members of AL DHS met with the Joint Legislative Committee on Homeland Security on November 16, 2005.

Topics discussed included: the spending of homeland security funds; interdepartmental communications system; regulation of storage of chlorine gas and radioactive materials; legal frameworks for the collection of intelligence; hospital preparedness for mass casualties; mass transit awareness; methods for purifying public water supplies; cyber-security rules; and the possible legislation to address these issues.

Representatives from the ACJIC, ADEM, and the Departments of Finance, and Public Health also addressed the Committee.

### CEDAP DEADLINE

The deadline for applying for Phase 2 Part 2 of the CEDAP grant program was January 13, 2006. 170 jurisdictions from across Alabama applied for the grant. Awards for CEDAP Phase 2 Part 2 should be announced in May 2006.

In the first round of CEDAP awards announced in May 2005, Alabama received 16 awards, second only to Washington State which received 17 awards. In the second round of CEDAP awards announced in September 2005, Alabama received 58 awards, considerably more than any other state in the nation. New Jersey received 33 awards, followed by Illinois with 32.

Congratulations to our law enforcement agencies that competed in this process!

### PANDEMIC FLU

Representatives from AL DHS and representatives from the Alabama Department of Public Health recently attended a conference on Pandemic Flu sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The conference took place in Washington D.C. on December 5, 2005.

The purpose of the national summit was to develop pandemic planning with state and local public health officials across the nation to discuss their plans for a pandemic, and to help them improve pandemic planning at the community level.

The *HHS Pandemic Influenza Plan* was presented and the overview included the threat of pandemic influenza, a description of the *HHS Plan* in relation to other Federal plans, and an outline of key roles and responsibilities during a pandemic. Also discussed were how state and local level officials need to address a pandemic at schools, businesses, and public agencies.

This and other medical related emergencies were addressed by the AL DHS Program and Capability Review Committee on February 1, 2006.

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Governor Bob Riley and the Alabama Department of Public Health will host a Pandemic Flu Summit in Birmingham on February 22, 2006. Participants include U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Michael O. Leavitt, leaders in Alabama government, health care, emergency response and members of the Alabama Legislature.

The Summit will feature break-out sessions led by experts from Washington who are considered to be the best in their fields. The focus of the summit is to share information and challenge attendees to host conferences and develop plans of their own in the event of a pandemic.

Participation in the Summit is by invitation only due to limited seating at the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Facility in Birmingham.

## ALABAMA LEADS NATION IN NUMBER OF SAFER GRANT AWARDS

On October 27, 2005, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, announced the grant awardees of the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program for FY 2005. Nationally, 22 departments received grants for hiring firefighters totaling \$7,717,095. Alabama received the largest allocation in the Nation with two awards totaling \$1.3 million.

The purpose of the SAFER program is to award grants to volunteer and career fire departments to help increase the size of the department and to enable the fire departments to conduct 24-hour staffing in order to provide adequate protection from fire and fire-related hazards.

Congratulations to our fire departments that competed in this process!

## DELIVERY OF INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS VEHICLES



In October, Alabama Homeland Security Director Jim Walker delivered to Houston County an interoperable communications vehicle for the Wiregrass Region, which includes Houston, Geneva, Covington, Coffee, Dale, Henry, Barbour, Pike, Crenshaw, and Butler counties.

In November, Governor Bob Riley joined local officials in Tuscumbia to turn over the keys to a new emergency vehicle purchased by the Alabama Department of Homeland Security. The vehicle will serve Region 5 which includes Lauderdale, Colbert, Franklin, Marion, Winston, Lamar, Fayette, and Walker counties.

The interoperable communications vehicles will enhance public safety communications by providing a platform to bridge radio systems and frequencies from different sources and allow officials to better communicate with one another in the event of a crisis.

The AL DHS is purchasing 8 of these vehicles for the state (one for each of the seven homeland security regions, and one for the Alabama Emergency Management Agency).



## U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BRIEFS

### FY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations Act

On October 18, 2005 President Bush signed the FY 2006 Homeland Security Appropriations Act. The FY 2006 Appropriations Act includes a 4-point-7 percent increase over the FY 2005 budget. The appropriations include increased funding for 1,000 new Border Patrol Agents, greater explosive detection equipment technology across transportation networks, and an integrated Preparedness Directorate to enhance coordination and deployment of preparedness assets and training. The Department of Homeland Security FY 2006 Budget includes more than \$30.8 billion in net discretionary spending. In total, with mandatory and fee-based programs, the DHS budget for FY 2006 is \$40.6 billion.

### Decentralized Training for First Responders

On October 29, 2005, DHS announced it will begin implementing a new Cooperative Training Outreach Program (CO-OP) designed to expand first responder preparedness training across the country permitting states to identify and approve institutions within their states, territories, or tribal entities that can adopt and deliver DHS standardized training courses. The first of three phases of the program for FY 2006 will allow State Administrative Agencies (SAA) to identify and approve state institutions that can deliver SLGCP's fully developed curricula for first responder training courses. The second phase will provide SAA's with an electronic toolkit that will list first responder training courses, full course curriculum, and training support materials to deliver the DHS certified training through approved institutions. During the third phase, the CO-OP Program will become institutionalized as state sponsored, certified instructors begin delivering an increased number of training courses for first responders. The SAA will designate a Master Trainer for each identified institution who will be responsible for the instructor's credentials and for monitoring and maintaining the quality of training delivered at the institutions. The point of contact for AL DHS is Mr. Dennis Wright; he can be reached by phone at (334) 956-2755 or email at [dennis.wright@dhs.alabama.gov](mailto:dennis.wright@dhs.alabama.gov)

### DHS Announces Campaign for Preparedness in 2006

On December 31, 2005, DHS announced as part of its successful Ready Campaign, "Resolve to Be Ready in 2006", and urged Americans to make emergency preparedness a resolution in 2006. DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff said, "In this time when Americans are making resolution to better their lives, the message of preparedness is truly fitting. Making an emergency plan for their home or business is just one of the simple steps individuals can take to help ensure that they are as prepared as possible in an emergency occurs." If you would like more information on developing an emergency plan for your family or workplace that includes a plan for natural disasters and potential terrorist attacks, please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov). DHS promotes individual emergency preparedness through the Ready campaign and Citizen Corps, an organization of volunteers trained to respond to terrorism threats, crimes, and disasters. For more information on the Alabama Citizen Corps please visit <http://servealabama.gov/CitizenCorps.htm>.



## ALABAMA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INFORMATION CENTER

Alabama's homeland security and law enforcement agencies now have the ability to integrate and coordinate tips, communicate leads and share investigative information through a secure web portal system. Developed by the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center under the sponsorship of, and funding provided by, the US Department of Homeland Security (USDHS), the system, known as Secure Homeland Access and Reporting Environment (SHARE), is part of ACJIC's Information Technology Evaluation Program (ITEP) grant received through the Alabama Department of Homeland Security (AL DHS).

The SHARE project involves the design and development of a virtual fusion cell of state and federal homeland security officials, Alabama's law enforcement community, and private sector security personnel who may communicate through secure web portal access, and creates a formal electronic reporting and communication environment to establish effective command and communications between fusion cell agents and field officers. SHARE also includes automated data acquisition, analytical tools, and GIS presentation systems to support fusion cell activities.

SHARE was designed to be integrated with Alabama's Law Enforcement Tactical System (LETS), the state's law enforcement information web portal that provides access to driver licenses (pictures), car tag lookups, all state prison and some local jail records (mug shots), warrants and protection orders. LETS is currently being used by approximately 10,000 law enforcement officers in Alabama, and soon will be consolidated into AlaCOP, an official Alabama criminal justice web portal that is being developed by ACJIC.

SHARE also includes a field officer terrorist incident reporting component, which is accessible to law enforcement and criminal justice officials through LETS. The component enables field officers to report potential terrorism-related incidents on a standard report form. Upon submission, this form is immediately entered into a database and members of the fusion cell are notified via e-mail. The same reporting system is available to private sector security personnel through a separate web portal called the Private Utility Security HSRM (PUSH) portal, which also provides these field officers with current homeland security information relevant to their particular sector of the economy.

Other features of the SHARE system include:

- a case management module, which provides the fusion cell with control over incoming reports and enables them to add to and modify this information without losing any past data;
- a Message Center, which enables fusion cell personnel to form groups of subsets of field officers throughout the state and to establish group communications with them, including the exchange of documents and images;
- the ability to query persons or vehicle tags over existing databases or create persistent queries (those which watch for new data being added to the databases);
- a GIS Portal, designed to show results of queries as well as resources and vulnerabilities on maps to support scenario planning and terrorist attack mitigation; and
- an information mining module for performing analysis and summaries across multiple databases to support terrorist activity scenario planning.

Law enforcement personnel or private industry security personnel who would like access to the system or additional information should contact Dr. Dave Brown at [dave.brown@alacop.gov](mailto:dave.brown@alacop.gov)